

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168861
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 PA-01
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

AF/P:RHOLIDAY (INFO)

-----122805 200250Z /72

O 200206Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 168861

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CT, US

SUBJECT:DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS

REF: BANGUI 2500

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE CALLED IN CAE EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVE MOKALO, ACTING FOR AMBASSADOR MAIDOU WHO IS
LEGITIMATELY ILL, TO EXPRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN RE DETENTION
OF RANDALL AND GOLDSMITH.

2. SEELYE REVIEWED EVENTS TO DATE, NOTING THAT IN SPITE OF
EMBASSY BANGUI'S EFFORTS WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ANY
INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE JOURNALISTS OR THE
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REASON FOR THEIR DETENTION. HE SAID WE ARE ALSO DISTURBED
BY THE FACT THAT NO CONSULAR ACCESS HAS BEEN GRANTED
ACCORDING TO ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. AS IT HAS
BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE THE MEN WERE PICKED UP, THE DEPARTMENT
FEELS IT HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED. SEELYE ASKED
MOKALO TO CONTACT THE GOCAE URGENTLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN
DEFINITE INFORMATION AND TO URGE RELEASE OF THE TWO

JOURNALISTS.

3. SEELYE OBSERVED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, THIS INCIDENT COMES AS A SURPRISE. HE AGAIN SOLICITED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE.

4. MOKALO STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS OFFICIAL DEMARCHE, THE EMBASSY WOULD COMMUNICATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS TO ITS MINISTRY AND WOULD REPORT BACK AS SOON AS A REPLY WAS RECEIVED. MOKALO ASKED FOR CALM AND HOPED THAT AFFAIR WOULD NOT BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE US PRESS WAS CERTAINLY CAPABLE OF MAKING THIS A VERY LARGE ISSUE WHICH COULD BECOME AN IRRITANT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT SPEEDY RESOLUTION WAS DESIRABLE.

6. AF/C DIRECTOR BUCHANAN WILL CONFIRM ABOVE POINTS TO AMBASSADOR MAIDOU BY PHONE.

7. FOR YAOUNDE: ARE BRITISH PLANNING TO CONTACT GOCAE ON GOLDSMITH'S BEHALF? DESK DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WILL KEEP THEM INFORMED.

8. AP AND WASH POST STILL SITTING ON STORY. DETENTION HAS NOT YET COME UP IN NOON BRIEFING. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL STORY BREAKS, EITHER INTENTIONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS PART OF PRESSURE TACTICS OR AS A LEAK.

9. WOULD APPRECIATE DAILY STATUS REPORT UNTIL ISSUE IS RESOLVED. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED YBY: AF/C: REGRIBBIN:LA

APPROVED BY: AF/C: EMARKS

-----022885 212305Z /61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR SIETZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 168861 ACTION BANGUI INFO PARIS YAOUNDE
NAIROBI JULY 20.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 168861

E.O. 11652: N/A

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REGRIBBIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770257-0193
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabgar.tel
Line Count: 197
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60160467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGUI 2500
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jun-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802316
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS
TAGS: CASC, CARR, CT, US, (RANDALL, JONATHAN)
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60160467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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